

Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), the Chair appoints the following Member of the House to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Mr. YATES of Illinois.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, February 12, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 127 of Public Law 97-377 (2 U.S.C. 88b-3), I hereby appoint the following Member to the House of Representatives Page Board: Mr. KILDEE of Michigan.

Yours very truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

FREEDOM WORKS AWARD
PRESENTED TO EMMIT SMITH

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, this past week in my district I had the privilege and the opportunity to present the first-ever Freedom Works Award to Emmit Smith, runningback for the Dallas Cowboys. It was a great privilege for me to do that in that in my initial discussions with Emmit about the opportunity to receive this award, which was created to acknowledge and recognize individuals for their personal service in their communities, that Emmit Smith insisted that, if the award were to be given, that it should be about neither football nor politics but about service. I applauded him for his point of view and said that he was exactly right.

Emmit Smith is a person that has done exemplary service in his community in a quiet way through Emmit Smith Charities. He has followed up on his initial expression of service and appreciation by keeping his promise to his mother, and in his off-season, even though he obviously has no economic need to do so, Emmit Smith went back and completed his college education and received his degree as a tribute to his mother and the promise that he made.

In addition to that, through Emmit Smith Charities he has personally provided over 9,000 meals to distressed families in the community during holiday seasons and using that as an opportunity to express his conviction that freedom works best when it is expressed in service to people other than yourself.

What really touches me most about Emmit Smith and his work in the community is that he actively seeks out

through Emmit Smith Charities distressed children in distressed communities in distressed homes and provides for them his personal encouragement; that if you will attend to your studies and if you will keep yourself clean of drugs, violence, and crime, and if you will do your work in your home and in your own community, that Emmit Smith himself will pay for their college education.

What better illustration of an individual who does not need to but feels compelled, out of his own commitment, to serve, to look after the needs of other people? I was proud to have that time with Emmit Smith. I hope that his receiving of this award will stand as an example to others to put freedom first through service to others.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of the Working Families Flexibility Act of 1997, H.R. 1.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

HELP REPAIR OUR PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, to prepare our children for the 21st century, our public schools must be safe and modern places to learn. Up-to-date schools send every student in America a clear message: You are important to us. We take your education seriously.

A recent GAO report shows one-third of our Nation's schools need a major repair or outright replacement. To keep our children from growing up in schools that are falling down, President Clinton has proposed \$5 billion to help communities finance \$20 billion in needed school construction over the next 4 years.

Many of our schools were built over 50 years ago. They are rundown, overcrowded, and lack even the basic electrical wiring to support modern technology. In my own district, kids are going to schools that were built when Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States.

We have high expectations for our students, teachers, and schools, but we cannot expect our children and our teachers to build strong lives on a crumbling foundation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of real urgency. Support the President's proposal on school construction and modernization.

END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS
FOREVER

(Mr. GEKAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, everyone will recall that the government shutdown last term and all the ramifications that followed. Many can make the case that it was the President who was at fault because he could have signed the appropriations bills that would have let government go on and he could have said, as he did on the welfare bill, well, there are some things wrong here but we will fix them later. But he chose to veto that bill.

Others can make the case that the Congress failed because they did not produce an appropriations bill to the liking of the President. And so what happened? The government shut down.

I have introduced legislation for several terms now which can end government shutdowns forever. I implore the Members of the House on both sides to join in cosponsorship and support of this legislation. It would mean that at the end of a fiscal year, if no budget has been enacted by the time the clock chimes in for the next budget year, that there would be an automatic instant replay of some percentage of the last year's budget so that government can go on while the negotiators proceed with producing a new budget for the new fiscal year.

We will hear more about this as the time goes on and even today under special orders.

EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. WEYGAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to address the most important issue that we could ever address, and that is the education of our children.

We have, and the President as well as Members from both sides of the aisle, have talked about education as being a high priority. In Rhode Island just last week I began to address that not with just teachers or parents or administrators but with the greatest consumers of education, our children. What I did was I brought together a roundtable of high school students and asked them, what about education, what about the issues that we have been talking about, teacher preparedness, drug abuse in the school systems, mastering the basics, computers in schools, what about fixing our schools?

I was impressed with their knowledge, their understanding and what they felt was right to do about education. They agree wholeheartedly with our President's plan and with our plan to revise education. But more importantly, what they were saying is they felt that they were gifted; they had the opportunity for computers in schools; families that participated; they had good schools and teacher preparedness. They were concerned about their fellow students who did not have those same opportunities.